

The Plot to Clear Lee Oswald

... is beginning to look much more like a plot, than any alleged plot to kill John Kennedy. The Communist Party is obviously (see "Warren's Secret" below) interested in clearing Oswald. But so is the non-Communist Left, and the more-or-less non-Communist Left, for fearfully intricate reasons that go to the root of the leftist psyche. No time here for etiological analysis. But the most recent symptoms are a rash of articles challenging the guilt of Oswald in: the *New Republic* ("The Seeds of Doubt" by Jack Minnis and Staughton Lind); the *Spectator* ("The Riddle of Dallas" by Mordecai Breinberg); *Commentary* ("The Oswald Affair" by Léo Sauvage); and, most notably, *L'Express* ("A Report on the Assassination" by Thomas Buchanan).

We say most notably, because *L'Express's* Buchanan comes right out and says that Oswald didn't do it, and that Dallas policemen were certainly involved.

Buchanan, whose thesis is the talk of Europe, is introduced by *L'Express* as a "mathematician" and a "computer programmer," which is true enough.

But much more that is true, and much much more that is relevant about Buchanan was not published by *L'Express*, and may not for all we know be known to *L'Express*. We have, by doing a little digging, established that three persons, shown Buchanan's picture in *L'Express*, say they knew him as a member of the Party in 1948. At that time he was fired from the *Washington Star* after confessing his Party affiliation. In 1956, he claims to have given up the Party—more or less, one gathers from his statement, out of ennui. But he has not stopped looking for fascist plots, and selling them to gullible Liberals. The Warren Commission, when it is through with its examination, might consider the plot to clear Lee Oswald.

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Warren's Secret

We make it a point to ask those we meet who are concerned with the investigation by the Warren Commission into the death of President Kennedy: What can Mr. Warren have had in mind when he uttered those resonant words a month ago, that in our lifetime we shall not know some of the things the Commission has learned about the assassination? There is no common guess. Different people give widely different guesses. The Chief Justice has given no satisfactory explanation for his enigmatic and provocative statement. But what an effect it has had! In Europe, it serves as the cornerstone of the Faith in the religion that holds that the assassination was not simply the aberrational act of a lone killer, but rather a collective endeavor.

We have heard many versions of what Warren might have had in mind. Some are inherently preposterous (e.g., "It was a plot of the Dallas Police Department, and America is trying to save face by burying the story"); some heavily technical ("The security arrangements were loused up. The Secret Service knew all about Oswald, but neglected to run him in, and we dare not confess to this terrible act of negligence"); some churlish ("Warren had in mind disgraceful behavior by members of the Presidential party in the motorcade . . .").

One answer from a former member of the Central Intelligence Agency strikes us as plausible enough to merit being passed along. Our friend, who has been intensively schooled in the practices of espionage and counterespionage, reasons as follows:

Oswald, as everybody knows, had spent many months in the Soviet Union, and not because he liked the landscape there, but because he had declared himself in essential sympathy with Communism. Granted, in due course he tired of life in Minsk; but he never renounced his philosophical fidelity to Communism, and it is clear from his behavior on his return to this country, where he took several opportunities to espouse the cause of Castro's Cuba, that his political allegiance had not changed. He did not, in other words, apparently leave Russia because of any conversion away from Communism.

That being the case, our friend said, the chances

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